

Highlights of Senator Webb's Landmark Five Nation Visit throughout Asia

Senator Webb visited five countries in two weeks, where he met with the top leadership of all five countries, including trade ministers, the prime ministers of Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia and Myanmar, and the deputy prime minister of Laos. He also met with American business leaders in the four countries not under economic sanctions by the U.S., speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce in Thailand and Vietnam and conducting round table discussions in all four countries regarding American business interests in Southeast Asia. This was his first visit to Asia after being named Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs.

Laos – August 13-14

- Senator Webb was the first American Senator to visit Laos in six years.
- Met with Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulit
- Met with Brigadier General Sisophonh Bangonesengdet. *The United States and Laos have strong cooperation in the removal of unexploded ordinance (UXO) and in the recovery of American MIAs.*
- Met with Industry and Commerce Vice Minister Khemmani Pholsena.
- Met with Chairman of the National Assembly Law Committee Keyoun Nhotsayviboun.
- Met with the Mekong River Commission. *The Mekong River Commission and the Mississippi River Commission agreed in July to partner on a variety of projects to improve Mekong River management.*

Burma – August 15-16

- Senator Webb was the first United States Member of Congress to visit the nation of Burma in more than ten years.
- Met with Senior General Than Shwe, and other high level government officials. *Webb was the first American official to meet with Senior General Than Shwe.*
- Met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. *Webb requested to meet Aung San Suu Kyi in his meetings with the Senior General and Prime Minister, and that request was granted. He also asked them to consider releasing her from house arrest to participate in the political process.*
- Brought John Yettaw, an American prisoner, out of Burma. *Webb requested his release on humanitarian grounds. Yettaw flew out of Burma with Webb and was taken to Bangkok.*
- Met with political parties, including the National League for Democracy (Aung San Suu Kyi's party), and with ceasefire groups to discuss the proposed elections for 2010.
- Met with the Commission for Drafting the State Constitution.

Thailand – August 17

- Met with Prime Minister Absihit and Foreign Minister Kasit.
- Met with American Chamber of Commerce. *Webb met with members of the American business community at every stop, including Bangkok, to hear their perspectives and seek input regarding ways to increase U.S. business activity and investment in the region. Webb feels strongly that it is critically important for the United States to engage with the region at every level—economically, diplomatically, politically, culturally.*

Cambodia – August 18

- First member of Congress to visit Cambodia in the last two years.
- Met with Prime Minister Hun Sen.
- Met with Minister of Commerce Cham Prasidh. *Discussion focused on ways to encourage increased U.S. investment in Cambodia. Minister Prasidh raised a number of specific bilateral economic issues that Webb's staff is looking into more closely, to explore possible solutions.*
- Roundtable with U.S. business representatives. *Webb met with members of the American business community to hear their perspectives on the challenges and opportunities of doing business in Cambodia, and to seek input on ways to increase U.S. investment and business engagement.*
- Met with opposition politicians Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha. *Webb heard from members of two opposition political parties regarding their concerns that democracy is "moving backward" in Cambodia.*

Vietnam – August 19-22

- Met with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung
- Met with Foreign Minister/Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem
- Met with senior members of the National Assembly: Vice Chairwoman Tong Thi Phong, and Foreign Affairs Committee Vice Chair Ngo Duc Manh
- Met with Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Chairman of the Office of Government
- Met with US-ASEAN Business Council in Hanoi and American business leaders in Danang and Saigon. *Webb has extensive history working to enhance business and economic engagement with Vietnam, and received useful perspectives from representatives of U.S. companies currently doing business there.*
- Met with Danang City Party Secretary Nguyen Ba Thanh
- Met with Cardinal Pham Minh Man, Archbishop of Ho Chi Minh City.